IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims * and ADD new claims * in accordance with the following:

1. **(Original)** A polyurethane elastic fiber containing inorganic compound particles that have an average particle size of 0.5 to 5 μm, and that show a refractive index of 1.4 to 1.6, and having at least one protruded portion that has a maximum width of 0.5 to 5 μm in the fiber surface, per 120-μm length in the fiber axis direction.

2. **(Original)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 1, wherein the polyurethane elastic fiber contains from 0.05 to 10% by weight of inorganic compound particles.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the inorganic compound particles are porous silica having a specific surface area of 100 to 800 m2/g.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the coefficient of dynamic friction thereof against a knitting needle is from 0.2 to 0.6.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the coefficient of static friction thereof against the polyurethane elastic fiber is from 0.3 to 0.6.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the change with time (after allowing the polyurethane elastic fiber to stand for 16 hours at 70°C) in the coefficient of static friction thereof against a nylon yarn is 0.1 or less.

7. **(Original)** A process for producing a polyurethane elastic fiber, which comprises finely dispersing inorganic compound particles having an average particle size of 0.5 to 5 μm and showing a refractive index of 1.4 to 1.6 in an amide-type polar solvent, and dry spinning a polyurethane spinning dope containing from 0.05 to 10% by weight, based on the polyurethane, of the inorganic compound particles.

8. **(New)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic compound particles are porous silica having a specific surface area of 100 to 800 m2/g.

9. **(New)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 8, wherein the coefficient of dynamic friction thereof against a knitting needle is from 0.2 to 0.6.

10. **(New)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 9, wherein the coefficient of static friction thereof against the polyurethane elastic fiber is from 0.3 to 0.6.

11. **(New)** The polyurethane elastic fiber according to claim 10, wherein the change with time (after allowing the polyurethane elastic fiber to stand for 16 hours at 70°C) in the coefficient of static friction thereof against a nylon yarn is 0.1 or less.